



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY**  
John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



***Division of Fire Safety***  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**DATE:** March 15, 2011  
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**Cornish Residential Explosion and Fire**

State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan announces the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office assisted Fire Chief Nathan Cass of the Cornish Fire Department with the investigation of the origin and cause of a fire located at 402 Center Road Cornish, NH. Two residents were home at the time and escaped without injury.

The cause of the explosion and ensuing fire appears to be accidental and related to the propane supply line becoming compromised by repeated falling ice and snow. The investigation is still on going at this time.

State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan wants to remind residents of New Hampshire, during winter months to keep propane regulators clear of snow piles, snow drifts and protected from falling snow or ice from the roof of a residence. Also, to keep doors clear of snow so that people can quickly leave the house in the event of an emergency.